

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

**Abstract Number:** 644

**Publication Number:** P639

**Abstract Group:** 3.3. Mechanisms of Lung Injury and Repair

**Keyword 1:** COPD - mechanism **Keyword 2:** Molecular pathology **Keyword 3:** Cell biology

**Title:** Telomere length in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Dr. Eman 4245 Sobh emansobh2012@gmail.com MD <sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr Magd 4246 Galal mgdgalal@gmail.com MD <sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr Entesar 4247 Sayed entesar\_sayed@hotmail.com MD <sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr Mona 4248 Hilmy Alryes mona\_hilmy@yahoo.com MD <sup>2</sup>, Prof. Dr Manal 4249 Refaat nsm101196@yahoo.com MD <sup>1</sup> and Prof. Dr Abeer 4256 Ashmawy abeermanci@yahoo.com <sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup> Pulmonary Medicine Department, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, 11715 ; <sup>2</sup> Clinical and Chemical Pathology Department, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, 11715 and <sup>3</sup> Cancer Biology Department, Biochemistry Unit, National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt .

**Body:** Background: Telomere length (TL) is considered a biomarker of cellular aging. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is found to be associated with premature aging and the senescence hypothesis is now accepted as a molecular pathway for COPD development. Objectives: to measure TL in patients with COPD and to study its relation to demographic data, spirometric-indices and arterial blood gases parameters. Methods: We measured TL using quantitative polymerase chain reaction, in 20 patients with severe to very severe COPD and 11 nonsmokers with normal lung function; both patients and controls were age and sex-matched males. Measurements and Main Results: Telomere length was significantly shorter in patients with COPD than in controls (P <0.001). Among COPD patients TL was significantly shorter in current-smokers than ex-smokers. No relationship was found between TL and pack/year exposure in COPD patients. In COPD patients TL was correlated to O<sub>2</sub> sat %, pH (P < 0.05) and PaO<sub>2</sub> (P < 0.01). TL was shorter in patients with very severe COPD when compared to severe COPD (P < 0.001). In COPD patients TL was correlated to spirometric-indices FVC % (P < 0.05) and FEV<sub>1</sub> %, FEF<sub>25-75</sub> % (P < 0.001). BODE index was correlated negatively with TL (P < 0.01) in COPD patients; among BODE index parameters; dyspnea score showed significant negative correlation (P < 0.05) with TL. Conclusions: Our data support accelerated cellular senescence in COPD represented by shortening of telomere length, TL was positively correlated with air flow limitation and it may be related to impaired physical activities in COPD patients, which is a manifestation of aging process.